

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Virtual and In-Person Meeting  
Delta  
September 18, 2023**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Bobbie Daniel	Mesa County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishing	Montrose County
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	At-Large Member
Mark LeValley	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Dave Traylor	Ute WCD
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Henry Woods	Hinsdale Municipalities

**Voting Members Excused/Absent:**

Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Bob Hurford (DWR), Jedd Sondergard (USBLM), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW).

**Public:**

Cindy Dozier (Club 20), Jeff Crane (Kirkham Ranch), Ross and Nancy Kirkham (Kirkham Ranch), Paul Kehmeier (CO Dept of Ag), Russ Sands (CWCB), Micheline Hynes (Western Landowner Assoc.), Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Tanya Ishikawa (UWP), Eric Krch (Engineer), Monique DiGiorgio (Western Landowners Assoc.), Kirk Russell (CWCB), read.ai meeting notes (unknown), Ty Koppenhafer (JDE), Evan Jones (DNR / DWR), Hannah Holm (American Rivers), Amy Ostidek (CWCB), Becky Mitchell (Upper CO River Commission), Andy Nicewicz (CO Ag Office), 1-720-501-7805 (unknown), Matt Stearns (CWCB), Joshua Godwin (CWCB).

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairperson Wendell Koontz.

**Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

**Agenda Approval**

Items #7 and #8 were moved to the end of the agenda. There were no objections to the agenda and it was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from the July 17, 2023 Meeting**

Allen Distel moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 meeting as submitted. Mark Roeber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Education Committee Report (Savannah Nelson)**

Sonja Chavez reported on the education committee activities, including their work on the newspaper campaign and a Facebook page. Recommendations were given for more places to publish articles and the committee was requested to give notice to Roundtable members when articles are published. The PEPO Committee is still waiting on next year's PEPO award.

**Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)**

There are three grant requests.

a. Highline Ditch Pipe Project (Highline Ditch and Enlargement Co.)

Kathleen Curry introduced this item. Tom Alvey recused.

This request is for \$40,000 from basin funds and \$80,000 from state funds for piping a portion of the Highline Ditch. The Committee recommends full funding of the request.

Kathleen Curry moved to approve the request from Highline Ditch and Enlargement Co. for \$40,000 from basin funds and \$80,000 from state funds for piping a portion of the Highline Ditch. Nancy Fishering seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Airborne Snow Observatory Mapping (Colorado River District)

Kathleen Curry and Raquel Flinker introduced this item. Tom Alvey recused.

This is a request for \$50,000 from basin funds and \$100,000 from state funds for Airborne Snow Observatory Mapping in the North Fork of the Gunnison River System. The Committee recommends full funding of the request.

Allen Distel moved to approve the request from Colorado River District for \$50,000 from basin funds and \$100,000 from state funds for Airborne Snow Observatory Mapping in the North Fork of the Gunnison River System. Jim Plumoff seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Tongue Creek Meander Restoration (Western Landowners Alliance)

Tom Alvey introduced this item.

This request is for \$27,000 from basin funds for Tongue Creek Meander Restoration. The screening committee was generally in favor but questioned the amount for administration (\$5,000) and recommended reducing the grant to \$25,000.

Joanne Fagan moved to approve Western Landowners Alliance's request for \$25,000 from basin funds for the Tongue Creek Meander Restoration Project. Allen Distel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (Steve Anderson)**

Steve Anderson reported on the CWCB meeting that took place in Crested Butte in July.

Kirk Russel, CWCB Finance Chief discussed funds for aging infrastructure.

Jeff Rodriguez gave current updates, including plans for the C-9 Summit on November 14.

Becky Mitchell, Colorado River Commissioner, discussed lower basin overuse of water, compact compliance, and the system conservation pilot program.

**Interbasin Compact Committee Report (Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber)**

Joanne Fagan reported the next scheduled IBCC meeting in October was cancelled. The committee will meet before the C-9 Summit on the afternoon of November 13.

**Colorado River District Update (R. Flinker)**

Raquel Flinker gave updates on big river issues, the Colorado River Drought Task Force, and the CFP – Growing Water Smart Program.

- a. Big River Update -
  - A timeline of recent inter-state discussions
  - What the River District will continue to do
  
- b. Colorado River Drought Task Force Update
  - Reason for the task force creation
  - Recommendations for next year’s legislative session for drought tools to be used in the future
  - Work in the past few years on drought management and compact curtailment
  - The River District’s principles for drought security task force
  - Discussion of task force meeting topics, aging infrastructure
  
- c. CFP - Growing Water Smart Program
  - Growing Water Smart Workshop – October 23-25 in Grand Junction
  - This Friday, September 22, River District’s annual water seminar in Grand Junction at Colorado Mesa University
  - Put on record a statement of our problem – aging infrastructure for agriculture and water which supports recreation.

Allen Distel moved the Roundtable draft a letter to the Task Force that includes all the points discussed at the meeting, stressing aging infrastructure and permitting issues. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Curry and Wendell Koontz will draft the letter and circulate to the Roundtable members for comment.

**GBRT Recorder Position (Mike Berry)**

As promised a year ago, Mike Berry is resigning his position as Recorder at this meeting and the bylaws currently state the position can only be held by a voting member of the Roundtable. A suggestion was made to change the bylaws so the Recorder position can be held by a non-member of the GBRT.

Allen Distel moved to amend the bylaws to allow a non-roundtable member to be Recorder. Nancy Fishing seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Allen Distel will start the process to amend the bylaws and put on the November agenda.

**Public Comment**

Paul Kehmeier discussed private property rights.

Tanya Ishikawa announced the October 17, 2023 stakeholder meeting ([uncompahgrewatershed.org](http://uncompahgrewatershed.org)).

**Other Business**

Kathleen Curry gave some legislative updates on upcoming proposed bills. She will give a report at the next meeting.

**Future Meetings**

- September 18, 2023 – CRDTF, Granby
- September 22, 2023 – Water Summit, CMU
- October 11, 2023 – CRDTF, Durango
- October 23-25, 2023 – Growing Water Summit, Grand Junction
- October 26, 2023 – CRDTF, TBD
- November 14, 2023 – C-9 Summit, Denver
- November 15-16, 2023 – CWCB

The next regular Roundtable meeting is November 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Roubideaux Room in Delta.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, it was moved and seconded to end the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Kathleen Curry and Wendell Koontz will draft a letter to the Colorado River Drought Task Force and circulate to the Roundtable members for comment.

Allen Distel will start the process to amend the bylaws for the Recorder position and put on the November agenda.

September 18, 2023